

Application No. 10/677,565
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005
Amendment Dated: August 30, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] U.S. Patent 6,065,579 provided an improved system and method over the prior art. In that reference, a material for an element of a power transmission-absorption assembly and the method of making such material is disclosed. The material had a pre-selected channel configuration to discourage the formation of hydrodynamic oil films that create poor cold shift characteristics and to create a path for trapped oil at the friction interface. Another embodiment of that invention disclosed a material and method for slotting the material and situating the material on a blocker ring to facilitate providing a plurality of space grooves having an open end which was substantially larger than the closed end. The material optionally included a raised rib or chamfer which facilitated controlling the fluid at an area of engagement between the material and a mating friction member. Figs. 18-21c of the reference illustrated in illustrate a friction material referred to in the reference, showing a plurality of slots.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] In another aspect or embodiment, the invention comprises a friction material for use on a friction material support, the friction material comprising a first edge associated with a first area; a second edge associated with a second area; a friction surface for engaging a friction component; an adhesive surface for adhering

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said friction material onto the friction material support; a plurality of spaced apertures having an opening associated with the first edge, at least a portion of each of the plurality of spaced apertures defining a first channel in the friction material for receiving fluid; and at least one second channel also capable of receiving fluid and at least one second channel having a second channel depth that is less than a thickness of said material.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Fig. 1B is an exploded enlarged view of the area 1B shown in Fig. 1A;

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Figs. 9A—9C—9A—9D illustrate another embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] The blocker ring 10 also has a tooth or spine spline surface 28 (Figs. 1A - 2) formed on an outer surface or circumference thereof which is engageable with the power transmission – absorption assembly and thereby able to clock or rotate member 26 in accordance with a cooperating friction element 29 (Fig. 2) causing movement along inner annular wall 15. As best seen in Figs. 1A - 2, friction facing material 12 of the present invention is affixed to the inner wall 14 of annular wall 15 of blocker ring 10 by means of the layer of adhesive 18 (Fig. 1B and 18), such a nitrile phenolic adhesive

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or other suitable adhesives as are conventionally known. It will be understood that cooperating friction element 29 (Fig. 2) is moveable along a longitudinal axis 30 in order to engage and disengage the blocker ring 10.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] Each of the spaced channels 41 is dimensioned to have desired fluid flow characteristics. The first channel 32 is a deep channel or slot and has a length that extends a distance or dimension D1 (Fig. 3D) that is generally the width W1 (Fig. 3A) of the facing material 12. As illustrated in Figs. 3B – 3D, each of the plurality of first channels 32 is defined by a first wall 32a (Fig. 3C) and a second wall 32b which may be in an opposed or parallel relationship. Alternatively, the walls 32a and 32b may be angled, non-linear or curved such as those described and illustrated later herein. Thus, it should be appreciated that the walls 32a and 32b could be formed so that they are not parallel and so that, for example, a dimension D3 (Fig. 3D Fig. 3A) of the first area 34 is larger than a dimension D6 (Fig. 3A) at the closed end 36 of the first channel 32. Selecting these dimensions D3 and D6 and the shape of walls 32a and 32b facilitates providing a desired amount of fluid flow into the first channel 32 and second channel 40.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0049] Note that the facing material 12 has a connector portion 38 situated between walls 32a and 32b. A top surface 38a cooperates with walls 32a and 32b to define the second channel 40. The connector 38 is a length D5. In one embodiment, the channel 40 is formed by compressing the material 12 above the connector 38. Thus, the facing material 12 comprising the connector 38 is compacted or densified when the material 12 is embossed or pressed to provide the channel 38. Alternatively, the second channel 40 may be machined, laser cut or otherwise formed or provided in the facing material 12 to define the second channel 40 and connector 38.